

# Executive Proclamation

## State of South Dakota

### Office of the Governor

*Whereas*, In the United States, one person completes suicide every 15.2 minutes; and,

*Whereas*, It is estimated that 4.6 million people in the United States are survivors of suicide (those who have lost a loved one to suicide);

*Whereas*, Suicide is the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of all deaths in the United States and the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 15 to 24; and,

*Whereas*, In 2007, suicide was the 9<sup>th</sup> leading cause of all deaths in the state of South Dakota, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death among people from the ages of 15 to 34 in South Dakota; and,

*Whereas*, In 2009, the HELP!Line Center in South Dakota received over 900 suicide-related calls through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255); and,

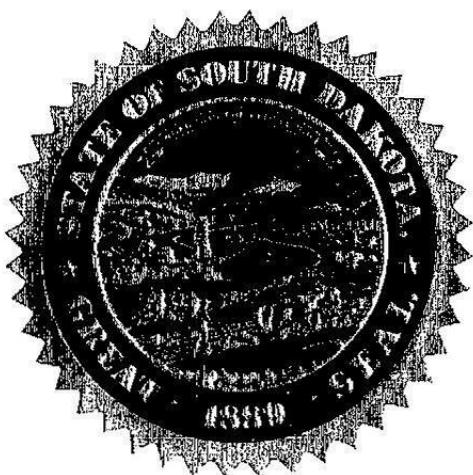
*Whereas*, Communities in South Dakota can work to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidality, and encourage people at risk to seek life-saving help; and,

*Whereas*, A great many suicides are preventable, and South Dakotans are encouraged to call the Lifeline if they or someone they know is considering suicide:

**Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds**, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 5 – 11, 2010, as

### ***SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK***

in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twentieth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.

A handwritten signature of M. Michael Rounds.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

A handwritten signature of Chris Nelson, Secretary of State.

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State